

## U.S. Fish & Wildlife: Maine's Hunting and Fishing Trends Outpace the Nation's!

We're not only a world-class fishery, but Maine is among the leaders in the nation in hunting participation.

According to the latest U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's report released last week, participation rates for residents in deer and turkey hunting, and freshwater fishing are outpacing the rest of the nation.

"Trends in Fishing and Hunting 1991-2006: A Focus on Fishing and Hunting by Species," counters what some local commentators have been saying about how bad hunting and fishing have become in Maine.

Nationally, participation has dropped for nearly all freshwater and saltwater fishing, but Maine has had above average participation for trout, salmon, bass and freshwater anything.

Maine was one of five states with the highest participation rates in deer hunting in 2006, and one of 26 states that had twice the national average of 4 percent.

Maine was also one of 18 states that had twice the national participation rate of 1 percent for turkey hunting.

According to state fisheries management supervisor, Joe Dembeck, "Maine has such high participation rates because it has so many wild brook trout waters and traditionally that's always been the focus of residents."

"What separates Maine from other places, and the reason why so many non-residents come here to fish is because they can catch lots of good-sized fish and see moose and other wildlife while enjoying the scenery, Dembeck added.

To download a complete copy of the report please visit

<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/NationalSurvey/reports2006.html>

You can also read Lewiston Sun Journal staff writer, Terry Karkos's article here:

[www.sunjournal.com/state/story/985148](http://www.sunjournal.com/state/story/985148)

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